

Weekly Word

June 16, 2008

By Mary Ruth Stone

Devotion

Son of Wisdom

Consider this: “. . . the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’” (1 Kings 3:5).

Many people fantasize about having such an opportunity from *anyone*, much less God. Fairy tales have been written and passed on for centuries about having three wishes. Solomon was privileged to have the only Being who could actually grant any request say to him, “What shall I give you?” That would be a dream come true and a heavy responsibility for any young person. How would he respond?

It was not by accident that Solomon prayed: “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” (1 Kings 3:9).

This was more than a spontaneous thought. Note the words that David spoke to Solomon shortly before passing the throne to him. Among other admonitions, David said: “Now, my son, may the Lord be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the Lord your God. . . . Only may the Lord give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the Lord your God” (1 Chronicles 22:11, 12).

Among the many values that David bequeathed to his son Solomon, appreciation for wisdom and for obedience to the law of God was paramount. David emphasized the need for wisdom. He prayed that his son would reign in wisdom and according to the word of God (1 Kings 2:3, 6). He commanded the leaders of Israel to help his son succeed and to serve God faithfully (1 Chronicles 22:17-19).

Solomon’s prayer for wisdom was not based on a whimsical thought off the top of his head. It was carefully planted in his mind by a godly father who intended more than any thing else for his son to succeed as king of Israel, a father who knew that success could only come with the blessing and wisdom of God.

Scripture

“And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore”

(1 Kings 4:29).

This 'n That

*“Think education is expensive?
Try ignorance.”*

– a bumper sticker

*“We often hear the statement,
'Education can't take the place
of the anointing.' That is true,
but I wonder: Do people who
say that somehow think that
ignorance can?”*

– To Ponder

Prayer

Lord,

Give me wisdom everyday to solve the problems therein. Amen.

Seeking,
Mary Ruth